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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/457,420	12/07/1999	DEAN HILLER	11324/1	7662

7590 07/31/2002
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SAN JOSE, CA 95110

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/457,420

Applicant(s)

HILLER, DEAN

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 07, 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 5-8, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. As to claims 5, 7, 14, and 16, the portion $\{10\}$ is not sufficiently described in the claims.

5. As to claims 6, 8, 15, and 17, the portion $[0-9]+$ is not sufficiently described in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 1-3, 9, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Farber et al (Farber), Patent No. 6,185,598.

8. As to claim 1, Farber discloses the invention as claimed, a method of processing an Internet site name comprising:

Art Unit: 2152

performing a regular expression comparison between a first Internet site name and a character pattern at a Domain Name Server (col. 7, line 3 – col. 8, line 25, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

9. As to claim 2, Farber discloses transmitting the first Internet site name from a first computer system to the Domain Name Server over the Internet (col. 2, line 64 – col. 3, line 63).

10. As to claim 3, Farber discloses transmitting a responsive message to the first computer system if a match is found in the regular expression comparison (col. 7, line 3 – col. 8, line 25, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2152

12. Claims 4-8 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farber et al as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of Schneider, Patent No. 6,338,082.

13. As to claim 4, Farber discloses the limitations as described in claims 1-3. However, Farber does not disclose the regular expression uses a Unix regular expression format. In the same field of endeavor, Schneider discloses DNS is implemented in a hierarchy of DNS servers (Unix machines running Berkeley Internet Name Domain (BIND) software) and an application-layer protocol that allows hosts and DNS servers to communicate in order to provide the translation service (col. 3, lines 4-38 and col. 9, lines 45-56). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of Unix regular expression as taught by Schneider into the system comparing between an Internet address name and characters at a DNS of Farber, thereby resulting in the claimed invention, since Schneider suggests that BIND is integrated into UNIX network programs for use in storing and retrieving host names and addresses.

14. As to claim 5, Farber and Schneider (Farber-Schneider) disclose the regular expression has a format $\backslash d\{10\}\$.X.Y$ where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain (Schneider, col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 12).

Art Unit: 2152

15. As to claim 6, Farber-Schneider disclose the regular expression has a format $^{[0-9]^+$.X.Y$ where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain (Schneider, col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 12).

16. As to claim 7, Farber-Schneider disclose the regular expression has a format $^{d\{10\}$.Z$ where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain (Schneider, col. 4, lines 13-30).

17. As to claim 8, Farber-Schneider disclose the regular expression has a format $^{[0-9]^+$.Z$ where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain (Schneider, col. 4, lines 13-30).

18. Claims 9-17 are corresponding apparatus and instruction claims containing the similar limitations as the methods described in claims 1-8; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

Art Unit: 2152

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-4639. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached at (703) 305-4815.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are as follows:

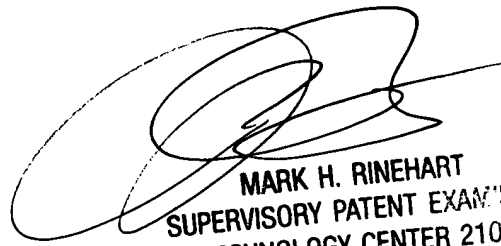
(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communications only)

(703) 746-7239 (Official Communications)

(703) 746-7240(for Official Status Inquiries, Draft Communications only)

Inquiries of a general nature relating to the general status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2152



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100